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**PROGRAM TO SAFE-
GUARD THE MORALS
AND
HEALTH OF SOLDIERS**

FROM THE OFFICE
OF THE SURGEON GENERAL

WAR DEPARTMENT

Originally published in the "Official Bulletin," August 14, 1917.
Reprinted for distribution by The American Social Hygiene Association,
105 West 40th Street, New York City.

Publication 122

*The Surgeon General's Office has authorized the
following statement on the Social Hygiene
Program of the War Department in
relation to other agencies*

In its popular interpretation, social hygiene has been used as a phrase to refer inclusively to all efforts for protection of the population from prostitution and venereal disease. Prostitution in its various forms affords the chief opportunity for disseminating the venereal diseases and promoting sexual promiscuity. Neither the military nor the civil authorities have been able effectively to combat this medical social evil alone. The assembling of troops in the vicinity of civil communities has always introduced a difficult social problem on the one hand and on the other has attracted the promoters of organized vice, who have established the commercialized activities known to increase the supply and demand for prostitution. The civil authorities within whose jurisdiction these practices were carried on were inexperienced in dealing with the situation, and the military authorities had no legal power under which to take action.

CAN SECURE CO-OPERATION

During the present war there is for the first time the opportunity to secure full co-operation between military and civil forces in applying the medical, social, moral, and economic knowledge which has been demonstrated to have a bearing on the repression of prostitution and the reduction of the prevalence of venereal diseases. Pub-

lic opinion will now support a sound program, and sufficient authority has been secured through legislative and administrative action to promise important results.

MEASURES PROPOSED

The paramount national issue is the winning of the war, and every resource, both military and civil, must be applied toward this end. The social hygiene program has, therefore, been centered administratively on the protection of the military, naval, and other governmental forces. The success attained, however, is equally to the advantage of the civil population. So far as these administrative measures relate to the United States army they may be grouped under five headings:—

1. *Army Medical Department.*—Military measures for combating the venereal diseases.

2. *United States Public Health Service.*—Epidemiological measures for the control of venereal diseases in the civil sanitary districts.

3. *War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities.*—Law enforcement and recreation measures in the extra cantonment zones established by the Secretary, educational work, and protective work for girls.

4. *Civil Authorities.*—Law enforcement, recreation, facilities for treatment of venereal diseases, and protection and control of women and girls.

5. *Non-official agencies.*—Social hygiene activities of volunteer organizations recognized for special services.

Each of these groups includes a variety of activities carried out by widely different agencies that have been available at the moment of necessity, and having proved useful have continued to function.

THE ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

The Medical Department of the Army is limited in its strictly official capacity to measures for the prevention and treatment of venereal diseases inside the military encampments. Unofficially the Surgeon General and his staff are in full accord and co-operation with the agencies to which reference has been made. A section has been organized to devote its attention to this problem, with an officer in charge of laboratory investigations, one in charge of medical work, and one in charge of educational and environmental measures and sociological studies. These officers will have the co-operation of the officer who is in charge of sanitary inspections, and the officer who directs the division of training camps. While the creation of a special section is new it should be stated that similar work has been carried on by the Army for many years. The activities of the section may be summarized under the following:—

1. Educational work adapted so far as practicable to the individual needs and responsibilities of the men and officers, and conducted

through personal interviews, group talks, illustrated lectures, exhibits, pamphlets and library reference books.

2. Prophylactic stations for minimizing the number of infections developing after exposure, and for personal advice and warning directed toward lessening the number of future exposures.

3. Diagnosis and treatment facilities for cases of syphilis and gonococcus infections which develop in spite of efforts to prevent them.

4. Enforcement of penalties against those who ignore advice and instruction to avoid sexual intercourse and venereal disease.

5. Epidemiological studies of the venereal diseases to discover any new measures which may be applied.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

The United States Public Health Service has been charged with the responsibility for health conditions in civil sanitary districts surrounding military establishments. The work will be done in co-operation with the state and local authorities and with the American Red Cross through an advisory board. The venereal diseases, as dangerous communicable diseases, are included in the program. The following are the principal lines of activity to be undertaken in relation to these diseases:—

1. Promotion of public opinion in support of the social hygiene program agreed upon.

2. Survey and standardization of dispensary and hospital facilities for venereal diseases.

3. Co-operation with private practitioners in minimizing the dissemination of infections.

4. Extension of laboratory, clinical, and advisory service for venereal diseases in communities under civil auspices.

Efforts along each of these lines will simplify and render more effective the Army measures.

COMMISSION ON TRAINING CAMP ACTIVITIES

In order to deal effectively with social hygiene in all its phases the Secretary of War has created the Commission on Training Camp Activities to carry out the law enforcement regulations promulgated by him under the authority of Congress and the President. This commission has also been charged with important activities in furnishing instruction and recreation for the troops. Under these divisions the commission's work as it indirectly bears on the control of venereal diseases may be summarized as follows:—

A. Law enforcement measures.

1. Elimination of commercialized prostitution in the cantonment zones.
2. Repression of clandestine prostitution.
3. Control of alcohol and other aids to prostitution.
4. Combating of gambling, use of drugs and other harmful practices.

B. Instruction in social hygiene.

1. Graphic instruction through exhibits, placards, stereopticons and stereomotorgraphs.
2. Lectures by accredited physicians.
3. Preparation and distribution of pamphlets and leaflets.
4. Advice and instruction by exhibit attendant.
5. Supervision in the camps of the social hygiene work by private organizations.

C. Recreation measures.

1. Social and educational activities of recreation huts in the cantonments, and of recognized agencies in the cantonment zones.
2. Theatrical and other entertainment programs.
3. Athletic contests, tournaments and games.
4. Reception tents for visitors.
5. Libraries of popular books and other facilities provided under the direction of the commission.

D. Protective Work for Girls.

1. Appointment of protective officers with police power.
2. Establishment of houses of detention where delinquent girls may be held while their cases are pending in courts.
3. Securing probation officers to deal with convicted girls.
4. Securing additional facilities in reformatory institutions.
5. Promoting educational work for the protection of girls through lectures and leaflets.

CIVIL AUTHORITIES

It is recognized that neither the measures within the military establishments nor the supplementary measures in specified zones can achieve the largest success without full co-operation of civil authorities in enforcing equivalent measures in all communities accessible to the personnel of the military forces. The carrying out of the following program, which has been inaugurated in many cities and towns, is of great importance to the Army and to national efficiency:—

1. Enforcement of laws and ordinances against prostitution and alcohol.

2. Establishment of proper facilities for advice and treatment of persons infected with venereal diseases.

3. Provision of attractive recreation and entertainment for the leisure hours of the population.

4. Moral protection and education of women and girls.

NON-OFFICIAL AGENCIES

The complicated interlocking of military and civil interests in the protection of soldiers and civilians from vice and disease affords an opportunity for many useful activities of volunteer agencies. This is particularly true in the field of social hygiene. In the interest of efficiency and avoidance of confusion and duplication of effort a small number of such agencies have been recognized as clearing houses for military-civil work of a very large number of organizations in their respective fields.

